mining leases to safeguard national security, environment and coastal regulation.

(d) The terms and conditions of the mining leases are governed by the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mineral Concession Rules, 1960, Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, other applicable Acts and Rules including Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and Environmental Notification dated 27/1/94 as issued and amended by Ministry of Environment and Forests, wherever applicable. In case of atomic minerals further conditions are prescribed by Department of Atomic Energy to safeguard national security, environment and coastal regulation.

(e) No, Sir.

Value addition of minerals

756. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is Government's policy to encourage value addition of minerals within the country for creating greater wealth, employment and revenue; and

(b) if so, whether any exercise been undertaken or contemplated to amend the provisions of the MMRD Act suitably and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals announced by the Government in 1993 emphasizes various aspects and elements including export of minerals in value added form. However, value addition is a commercial decision for investors depending, inter-alia on the demand for the value added product and profitability of the venture.

(b) Section 11(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 provides that mineral concessions may be granted by the State Government after taking into consideration, inter-alia, the investment which an applicant proposes to make in the mines and in the industry based on the minerals.